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Sen. Allen announces Mackinac Island State Park Funding Restored

LANSING – The Senate Appropriations Histories, Arts, and Libraries Subcommittee restored funding to the Mackinac Island State Parks, announced state Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

The subcommittee approved a change to Senate Bill 247, which reinstated \$1.5 million to the Mackinac Island State Park that was originally cut by the governor.

“I would like to thank my colleagues in the Senate for restoring this crucial funding to the Mackinac Island State Park,” Allen said. “Colonial Michilimackinac, Fort Mackinac and Mill Creek bring tourists from around the state, country and globe to northern Michigan. They are an instrumental part of northern Michigan’s economy.”

The approval of the Senate subcommittee is just the first step in the budgeting process. The budget still needs to go before the full Senate and move through the committee process in the House of Representatives.

“I am hopeful that we can maintain this funding for the Mackinac Island State Park. When you ask people from all around what is one thing they know about northern Michigan, they say Mackinac Island,” Allen said. “The Mackinac Island State Park is the crown jewel in Michigan’s tourist economy and I will continue to work with my fellow legislators in the House and the Senate to keep this critical funding intact.”

The budget proposed by the governor eliminated \$1.5 million from the state’s general fund for the Mackinac Island State Park. The proposed cut would have forced the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to raise and introduce new fees for visitors to the park to make up the difference.

“During a time when we are so focused on creating jobs, we cannot afford to eliminate funding that supports the base of our northern Michigan tourism industry,” Allen said. “The governor’s proposal to cut this money was a step backwards in focusing state dollars to promote job growth and could very well have sent more tourism jobs to the unemployment office.”

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